

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 3, 2007

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New Hampshire Coastal Program Accepting Grant Applications

Portsmouth, N.H. - The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) at the Department of Environmental Services is currently accepting applications for its 2008 competitive grant round. Through federal funding, NHCP enables projects that address coastal resources, like water quality protection, public access and education. Grants are offered on a competitive basis to eligible applicants, and at least a one to one match is required. No more than \$40,000 will be awarded to any construction or land acquisition project, and no more than \$30,000 will be awarded for any planning or management project.

The funds are available to NHCP through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. This year's total available funds are pending federal funding to OCRM.

Grant Application Information:

Application Submission Deadline - Two copies of the completed application and all associated documentation (including letters of support) are due at the NHCP office (address below) no later than Monday, February 11, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The application form with instructions is available at www.des.state.nh.us/Coastal/Grants/.

Eligible Applicants - Any of New Hampshire's coastal communities (Dover, Durham, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Madbury, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rollinsford, Rye, Seabrook and Stratham), Rockingham and Strafford County governments, the Rockingham Planning Commission, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, state agencies, departments within the University of New Hampshire and other institutions of higher education, coastal community public school districts, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects/Activities - Grants are offered for two types of projects:

- 1) Planning and Management
- 2) Acquisition and Construction

Projects should be independent of other work that may or may not be completed. Examples of eligible projects can be found in Attachment 1 of the application package available on the coastal program website.

Geographic Requirement - Projects must take place within the boundaries of the coastal zone (the 17 cities and towns listed above as "eligible applicants") and/or have a direct impact on this geographic area. Planning and management projects may extend beyond the boundary if it can be shown that the project will benefit the area covered in the coastal zone.

Matching Requirements - Grants are awarded on a 50/50 matching basis. Applicants may provide more than 50 percent of a project's costs, however, in no case may the applicant provide less. Match may be in the form of either cash or in-kind services (e.g., donated municipal staff time, volunteer time, donated materials, donated mileage, etc.)

Maximum Grant Amount – Given reduced federal funding for this program, no more than \$40,000 will be awarded to any construction or land acquisition project and no more than \$30,000 will be awarded for any planning or management project.

Project Schedule - Projects may not begin prior to July 1, 2008, and must be completed by December 31, 2009. Extensions of the completion date beyond December 31, 2009 will be considered for projects demonstrating a special need, and will be subject to approval by NOAA and OCRM.

Public Hearing Requirement - Municipalities and regional planning commissions are required to hold public hearings prior to submitting an application.

Submit Applications to:
New Hampshire Coastal Program
Dept. of Environmental Services
50 International Drive, Suite 200
Portsmouth, NH 03801

For Further Assistance - Contact Dave Murphy at the Coastal Program office in Portsmouth, (603) 559-0021 or e-mail: dmurphy@des.state.nh.us.

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